



Department of Justice

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**MARCELINE, MISSOURI MAN IS SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS
PRISON ON FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

ST. LOUIS, Missouri - Theodore D. Kleist was sentenced to ten years in prison on charges of possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway of the Eastern District of Missouri and Linn County Prosecuting Attorney Tracy Carlson announced today. This prison term will be followed by supervised release for life.

"One of the goals of the U.S. Attorney's Office is to protect those who cannot protect themselves, and send people who victimize these innocent children to prison," said Hanaway. "This office will prosecute child pornography cases to the fullest extent of the law, even when there is a related State prosecution against the same person."

"I am very pleased and appreciate the hard work of the Office of the U.S. Attorney. This would not have been possible without the great work of the Marceline Police Department and Linn Co. Victim Advocate Abbey Stewart," said Carlson. "Kleist faces a potential life sentence for the case pending in Linn County."

In July 2006, a Marceline Police Department Officer was dispatched to a residence in the 100 block of East Crocker Street, Marceline, Missouri, to respond to a 911 call from a woman at that residence. Based on investigation conducted at the residence, the officer seized a Dell computer tower. The FBI later obtained search warrants for the computer and related storage devices. Analysis conducted by the Regional Computer Crime Education and Enforcement Group (RCCEEG) revealed over 100 images of child pornography, some of which depicted minors under the age of 12 engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Additionally, subsequent investigation determined that Kleist was engaged in a pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse of a minor during 2006.

Kleist, 36, of 100 block of East Crocker Street, Marceline, pled guilty to one felony count of possession of child pornography in December 2006. The federal crime of possessing child pornography carries a ten year maximum penalty. Kleist appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Stephen N. Limbaugh.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

In addition to the PA Carlson and the Marceline Police Department, Hanaway went on to commend the joint investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Regional Computer Crime Education & Enforcement Group, and the Linn and Livingston County Sheriff's Departments.

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